

This message is being distributed by Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP on behalf of its foreign principal, the Government of the Republic of Angola. Additional information is on file with the FARA Registration Unit of the US Department of Justice, Washington, District of Columbia.

Friends,

Transparency International has released its 2021 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI). The full report, which can be found [here](#), lists Angola as one of the countries that have “significantly improved in the last ten years.”

More specifically, Angola is the second most improved country within the past five years (second only to Armenia), improving its score by 10 points and its ranking by 31. This makes Angola the most improved country in Africa over the past five years.

Overall, Angola’s score is 29, which ranks it 136 out of 180. The score is 2 points higher than 2020 and 10 points higher than 2017. In a [summary](#) of Angola, TI says:

Angola (29, up 7 points since 2012) marks a significant improvement on the CPI following the election of President João Lourenço in 2017, who has taken steps to crack down on corruption. Authorities have pursued high-profile corruption investigations into the former ruling family. Among them was Isabel dos Santos, the former president’s daughter and ex-chief of the state oil company Sonangol. Dos Santos was the subject of the Luanda Leaks exposé and was also recently sanctioned by the US government for “significant corruption”.

However, investigations are rarely opened in other cases, raising doubts about selective justice. In a [2019 survey](#), 39 per cent of Angolans said that the president was using the fight against corruption as a tool against political rivals.

According to the same survey, the majority also think that those who report corruption risk retaliation. People’s concerns turned out to be justified when last June [authorities charged a journalist](#) with “abusing press freedom” after he exposed corruption in one of the country’s provinces.

The Embassy of Angola in the United States today [tweeted](#) this message calling attention to the report:

Angola is proud to be the most improved country in Africa over the past five years according to Transparency International’s annual CPI report. Fighting corruption is one of @jlprdeangola’s top priorities. Thank you @anticorruption for your important work. #NewAngola

If you are interested in additional information about Angola or President Lourenço's ongoing program of economic reform, modernization and anti-corruption please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dave Schnittger

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Angola

Dave Schnittger

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CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX

2021

 **TRANSPARENCY
INTERNATIONAL**
the global coalition against corruption

Transparency International is a global movement with one vision: a world in which government, business, civil society and the daily lives of people are free of corruption. With more than 100 chapters worldwide and an international secretariat in Berlin, we are leading the fight against corruption to turn this vision into reality.

#cpi2021

www.transparency.org/cpi

Cover image: Amy Chiniara

Every effort has been made to verify the accuracy of the information contained in this report. All information was believed to be correct as of January 2022. Nevertheless, Transparency International cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of its use for other purposes or in other contexts.

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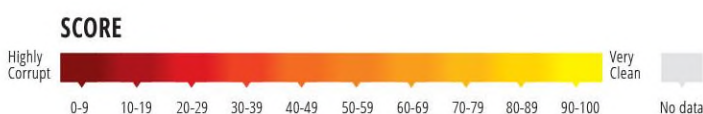
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180 COUNTRIES. 180 SCORES.

HOW DOES YOUR COUNTRY MEASURE UP?

The perceived levels of public sector corruption in 180 countries/territories around the world.



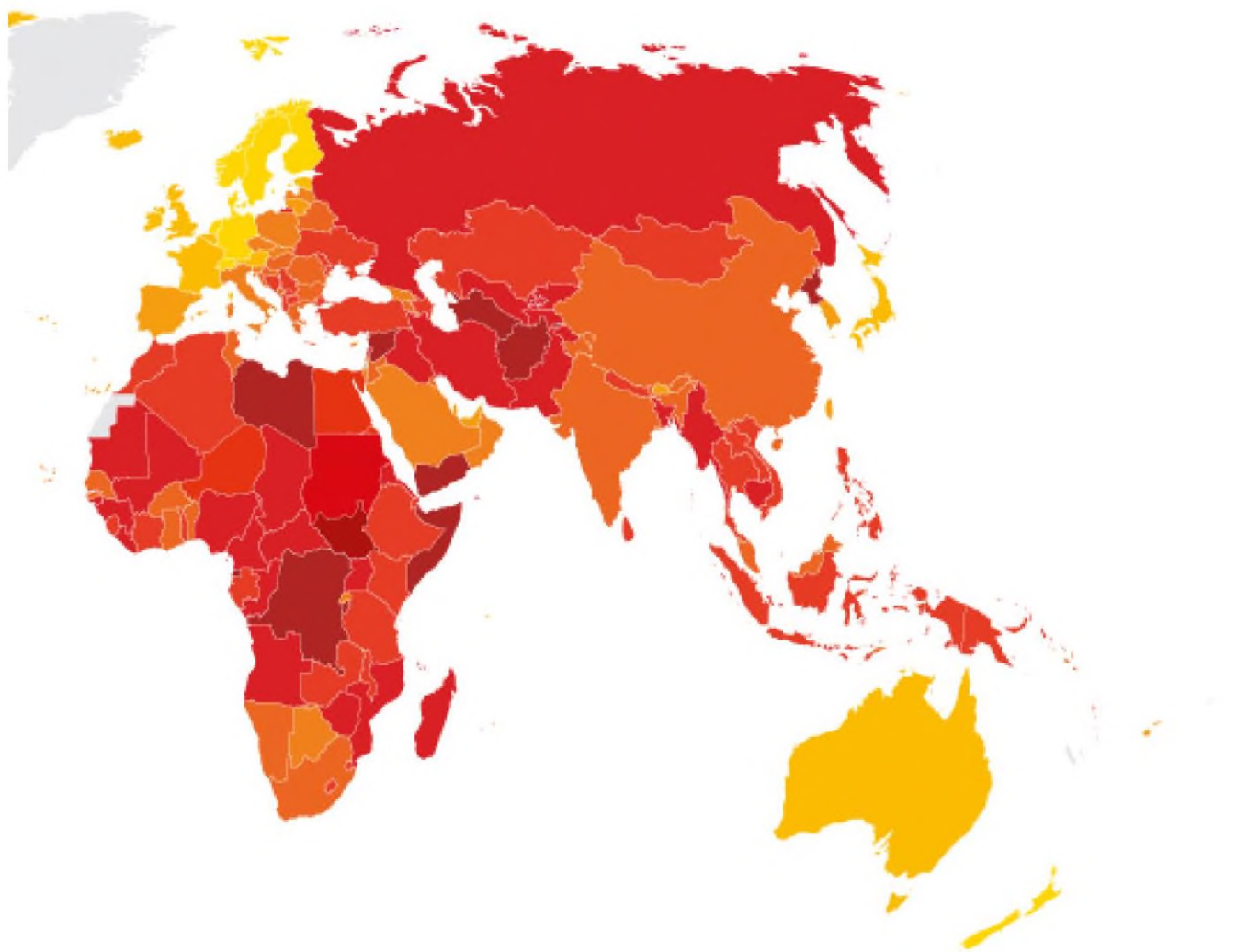
SCORE COUNTRY/TERRITORY

88	Denmark
88	Finland
88	New Zealand
85	Norway
85	Singapore
85	Sweden
84	Switzerland
82	Netherlands
81	Luxembourg
80	Germany
78	United Kingdom
76	Hong Kong
74	Canada
74	Iceland
74	Ireland
74	Estonia
74	Austria
73	Australia
73	Belgium
73	Japan
73	Uruguay
71	France
70	Seychelles

69	United Arab Emirates
68	Bhutan
68	Taiwan
67	Chile
67	United States of America
65	Barbados
64	Bahamas
63	Qatar
62	Korea, South
62	Portugal
61	Lithuania
61	Spain
59	Israel
59	Latvia
59	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
58	Cabo Verde
58	Costa Rica
57	Slovenia
56	Italy
56	Poland
56	Saint Lucia
55	Botswana

55	Dominica
55	Fiji
55	Georgia
54	Czechia
54	Malta
54	Mauritius
53	Grenada
53	Cyprus
53	Rwanda
53	Saudi Arabia
52	Oman
52	Slovakia
49	Armenia
49	Greece
49	Jordan
49	Namibia
48	Malaysia
47	Croatia
46	Cuba
46	Montenegro
45	China
45	Romania
45	Sao Tome and Principe

45	Vanuatu
44	Jamaica
44	South Africa
44	Tunisia
43	Ghana
43	Hungary
43	Kuwait
43	Senegal
43	Solomon Islands
42	Bahrain
42	Benin
42	Burkina Faso
42	Bulgaria
41	Timor-Leste
41	Belarus
41	Trinidad and Tobago
40	India
40	Maldives
39	Kosovo
39	Colombia
39	Ethiopia
39	Guyana
39	Morocco



39	North Macedonia
39	Suriname
39	Tanzania
39	Vietnam
38	Argentina
38	Brazil
38	Indonesia
38	Lesotho
38	Serbia
38	Turkey
37	Gambia
37	Kazakhstan
37	Sri Lanka
36	Cote d'Ivoire
36	Ecuador
36	Moldova
36	Panama
36	Peru
35	Albania
35	Bosnia and Herzegovina
35	Malawi
35	Mongolia
35	Thailand

34	El Salvador
34	Sierra Leone
33	Egypt
33	Nepal
33	Philippines
33	Zambia
33	Algeria
32	Eswatini
32	Ukraine
31	Gabon
31	Mexico
31	Niger
31	Papua New Guinea
30	Azerbaijan
30	Bolivia
30	Djibouti
30	Dominican Republic
30	Laos
30	Paraguay
30	Togo
30	Kenya
29	Angola

29	Liberia
29	Mali
29	Russia
28	Mauritania
28	Myanmar
28	Pakistan
28	Uzbekistan
27	Cameroon
27	Kyrgyzstan
27	Uganda
26	Bangladesh
26	Madagascar
26	Mozambique
25	Guatemala
25	Guinea
25	Iran
25	Tajikistan
24	Lebanon
24	Nigeria
24	Central African Republic
23	Cambodia
23	Honduras
23	Iraq

23	Zimbabwe
22	Eritrea
21	Congo
21	Guinea Bissau
20	Chad
20	Comoros
20	Haiti
20	Nicaragua
20	Sudan
19	Burundi
19	Democratic Republic of the Congo
19	Turkmenistan
17	Equatorial Guinea
17	Libya
16	Afghanistan
16	Korea, North
16	Yemen
14	Venezuela
13	Somalia
13	Syria
11	South Sudan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Two years into the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) reveals that corruption levels have stagnated worldwide. Despite commitments on paper, 131 countries have made no significant progress against corruption over the last decade and this year 27 countries are at historic lows in their CPI score.¹ Meanwhile, human rights and democracy across the world are under assault.²

This is no coincidence. Corruption enables human rights abuses,³ setting off a vicious and escalating spiral. As rights and freedoms are eroded, democracy declines and authoritarianism takes its place,⁴ which in turn enables higher levels of corruption.⁵

The past year has brought disturbing examples of this, from the killing of human rights defenders⁶ and the closing of media outlets,⁷ to government spying scandals like the Pegasus Project.⁸ Increasingly, rights and

checks and balances are being undermined not only in countries with systemic corruption and weak institutions, but also among established democracies.

Respecting human rights is essential for controlling corruption because empowered citizens have the space to challenge injustice.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has also been used in many countries as an excuse to curtail basic freedoms⁹ and side-step

important checks and balances. And despite the increasing international momentum to end the abuse of anonymous shell companies, many high-scoring countries with relatively "clean" public sectors continue to enable transnational corruption.

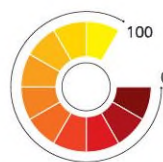
There is an urgent need to accelerate the fight against corruption if we are to halt human rights abuses and democratic decline across the globe.

180 COUNTRIES SCORED

The CPI scores **180 countries and territories** by their **perceived** levels of public sector corruption, according to experts and business people.

2/3 OF COUNTRIES SCORE BELOW

50/100



THE CPI USES A SCALE FROM 0 TO 100

100 is **very clean** and 0 is **highly corrupt**

THE AVERAGE SCORE IS

43/100



In authoritarian contexts where control rests with a few, social movements are the last remaining check on power. It is the collective power held by ordinary people from all walks of life that will ultimately deliver accountability.

Daniel Eriksson

Chief Executive Officer, Transparency International Secretariat



Photo: Transparency International

Recommendations

Corruption may be a multifaceted problem, but it is one we know how to solve. To end the vicious cycle of corruption, human rights violations and democratic decline, people should demand that their governments:



1. UPHOLD THE RIGHTS NEEDED TO HOLD POWER TO ACCOUNT

Governments should roll back any disproportionate restrictions on freedoms of expression, association and assembly introduced since the onset of the pandemic. Ensuring justice for crimes against human rights defenders must also be an urgent priority.



3. COMBAT TRANSNATIONAL CORRUPTION

Governments in advanced economies need to fix the systemic weaknesses that allow cross-border corruption to go undetected or unsanctioned. They must close legal loopholes, regulate professional enablers of financial crime, and ensure that the corrupt and their accomplices cannot escape justice.



2. RESTORE AND STRENGTHEN INSTITUTIONAL CHECKS ON POWER

Public oversight bodies such as anti-corruption agencies and supreme audit institutions need to be independent, well-resourced and empowered to detect and sanction wrongdoing. Parliaments and the courts should also be vigilant in preventing executive overreach.



4. UPHOLD THE RIGHT TO INFORMATION IN GOVERNMENT SPENDING

As part of their COVID-19 recovery efforts, governments must make good on their pledge contained in the June 2021 UNGASS political declaration to include anti-corruption safeguards in public procurement. Maximum transparency in public spending protects lives and livelihoods.

GLOBAL HIGHLIGHTS

The results of this year's CPI show that countries with well-protected civil and political liberties generally control corruption better. The fundamental freedoms of association and expression are crucial in the fight for a world free of corruption.

The index ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and business people. It relies on 13 independent data sources and uses a scale of zero to 100, where zero is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.

More than two-thirds of countries (68 per cent) score below 50 and the average global score remains static at 43. Since 2012, 25 countries significantly improved their scores, but in the same period 23 countries significantly declined.¹⁰

Meanwhile, the scores of several democracies that used to top the index and champion anti-corruption efforts around the world are deteriorating. Many of these high-scoring countries remain safe havens for corrupt individuals from abroad.

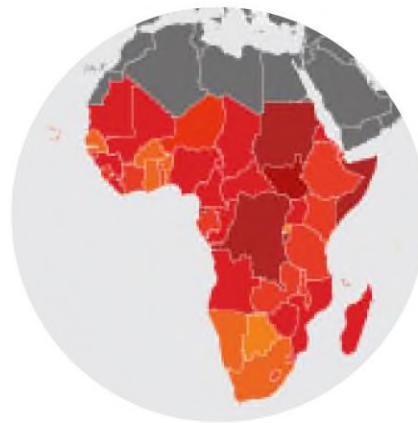


HIGHEST SCORING REGION

WESTERN EUROPE & EUROPEAN UNION

66/100

AVERAGE REGIONAL SCORE



LOWEST SCORING REGION

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

33/100

AVERAGE REGIONAL SCORE

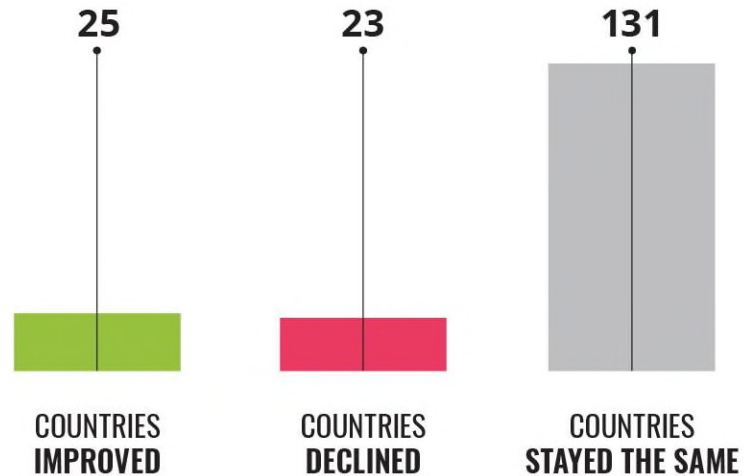
This year, the top countries are Denmark, Finland and New Zealand, each with a score of 88. Norway, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Luxembourg and Germany complete the top 10.

South Sudan, Syria and Somalia remain at the bottom of the index. Countries experiencing armed conflict or authoritarianism tend to earn the lowest scores, including Venezuela, Yemen, North Korea, Afghanistan, Libya, Equatorial Guinea and Turkmenistan.

Overall, the CPI shows that control of corruption has stagnated or worsened in 86 per cent of countries over the last decade.

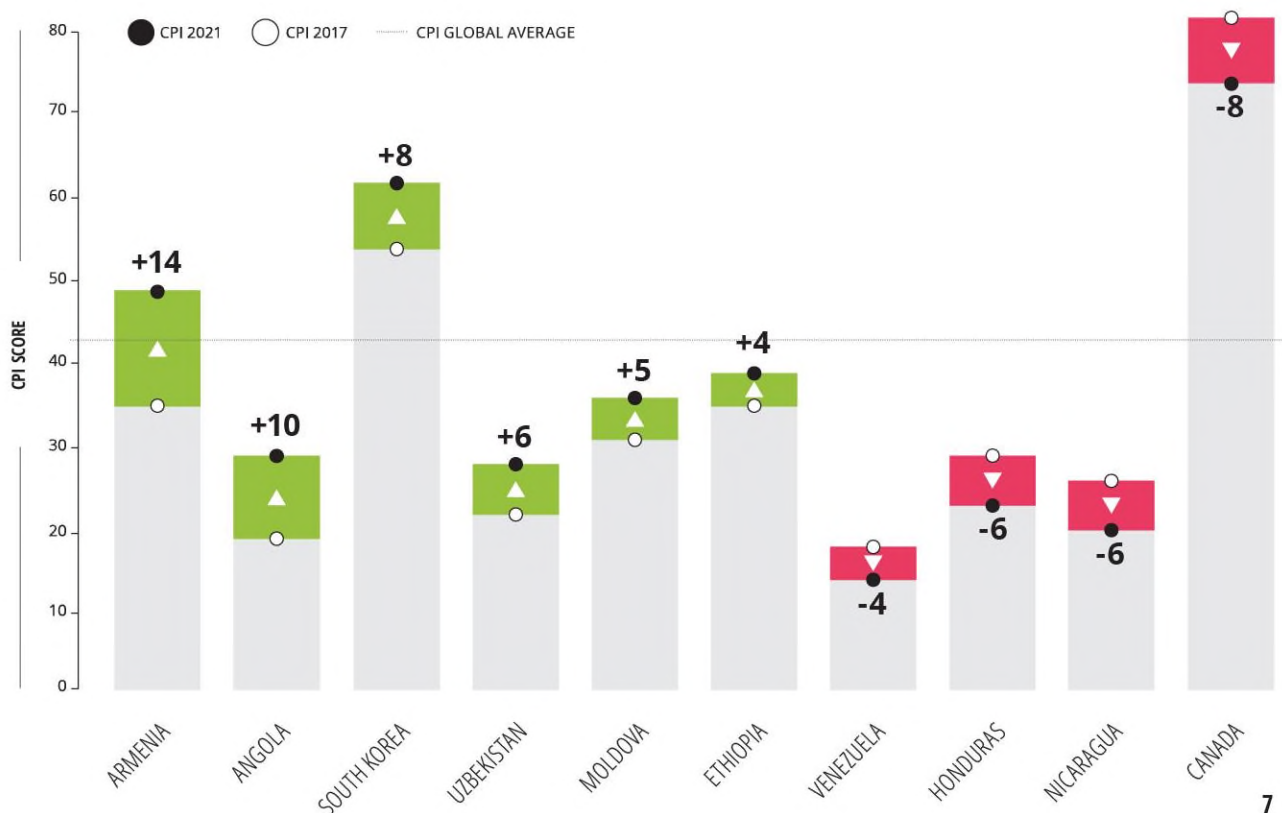
CPI SCORE CHANGES, 2012-2021

Number of countries that the underlying data sources largely agree improved or declined, over the period 2012 to 2021, for all 179 countries with data available.



MOST SIGNIFICANT FIVE-YEAR MOVERS

Countries that the underlying data sources largely agree improved or declined, over the period 2017 to 2021. A full list of all statistically significant changes is available in the CPI 2021 dataset.



HUMAN RIGHTS AND CORRUPTION

Transparency International's analysis demonstrates that upholding human rights is crucial in the fight against corruption, with countries who violate civil liberties scoring lower on the CPI.

From the repression of opposition supporters in Belarus,¹¹ to the closing of media outlets¹² and civil society organisations¹³ in Nicaragua, the deadly violence against protesters in Sudan¹⁴ and the killing of human rights defenders in the Philippines,¹⁵ human rights and democracy are under threat. Since 2012, 90 per cent of countries have stagnated or declined in their civil liberties score.¹⁶

Corruption undermines the ability of governments to guarantee the human rights of their citizens.¹⁷ This affects the delivery of public services, the dispensation of justice and the provision of safety for all. In particular, grand

corruption committed by high-level officials usually combines the large-scale, transnational theft of public funds with gross human rights violations.

Our analysis shows that such corruption schemes – often facilitated by advanced economies who score well on the CPI – exacerbate repression by allowing autocrats to:

1. Enjoy looted funds.

Employing complicit bankers, lawyers and real-estate brokers in major financial centres, the corrupt can store their illicit gains, reward cronies and further concentrate their power.

2. Launder their reputation abroad.

By bribing foreign politicians and employing western public relations firms and lobbyists,¹⁸ authoritarian and kleptocratic regimes soften international pressure on their human rights record.

3. Evade accountability.

Through the abuse of secret companies and anonymous investments, the corrupt can hide their wrongdoing from law enforcement or judicial bodies and escape consequences.

“ Human rights are not simply a nice-to-have in the fight against corruption. Authoritarianism makes anti-corruption efforts dependent on the whims of an elite. Ensuring that civil society and the media can speak freely and hold power to account is the only sustainable route to a corruption-free society. ”

Delia Ferreira Rubio
Chair, Transparency International



Photo: [World Economic Forum/Benedikt von Loebell](#) / CC BY-NC-SA 2.0

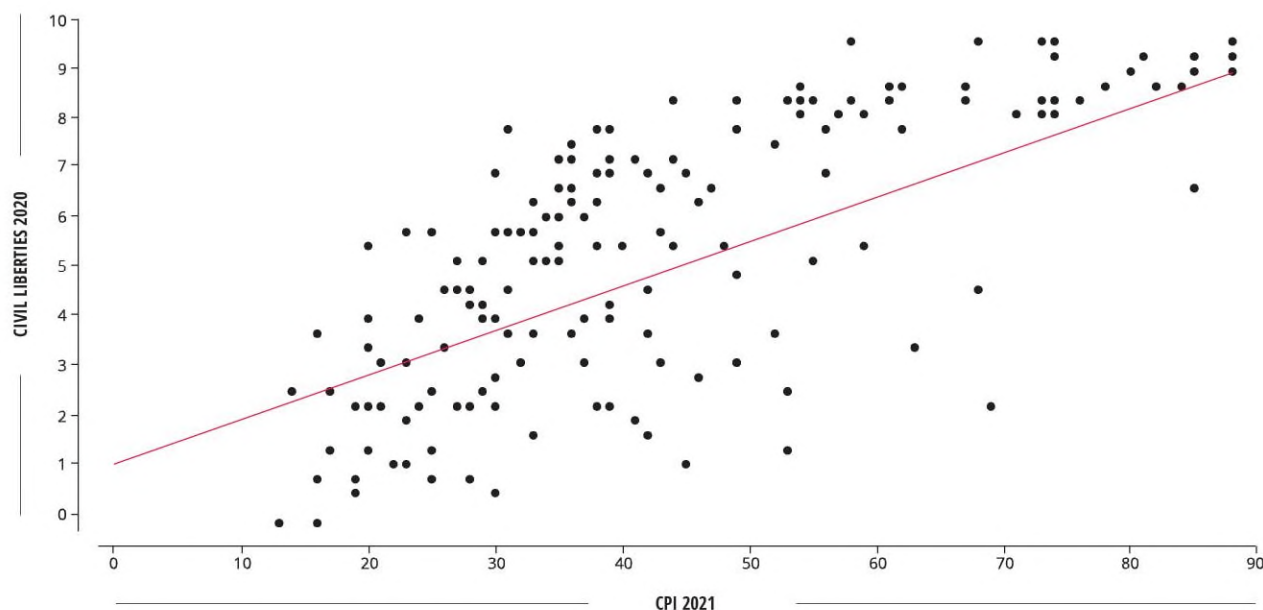
Fundamental rights such as freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and access to justice guarantee public participation and keep corruption in check. The current wave of authoritarianism is not driven by coups and

violence, but by gradual efforts to undermine democracy.¹⁹ This usually begins with attacks on civil and political rights, efforts to undermine the autonomy of oversight and election bodies, and control of the media.²⁰

Such attacks allow corrupt regimes to evade accountability and criticism, creating an environment for corruption to flourish.

CORRUPTION AND BREACHES OF CIVIL LIBERTIES

Higher levels of corruption, as measured by the CPI, are strongly associated with breaches of civil liberties. Outliers exist, but in most cases the relationship is causal in both directions: more corruption can lead to restrictions on civil liberties, while having fewer civil liberties makes it harder to fight corruption.²¹



Armenia

Armenia is a success story of the CPI in the last five years, improving 14 points since 2017 to a score of 49. Mass protests in 2018 forced out an entrenched political elite in favour of a reform-minded government.²² Armenia has since expanded civil liberties, paving the way for more sustainable civic engagement and accountability.²³ Despite progress, the reform agenda has stalled in the past year and the government must recommit.

Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan is one of the most consistent improvers in the CPI, from a score of just 17 in 2012 to 28 this year. Reforms adopted since 2016 contributed to modest increases in civil liberties, particularly freedom of expression.²⁴ However, Uzbekistan remains an autocracy and much more is needed to achieve lasting wins against corruption.

Singapore

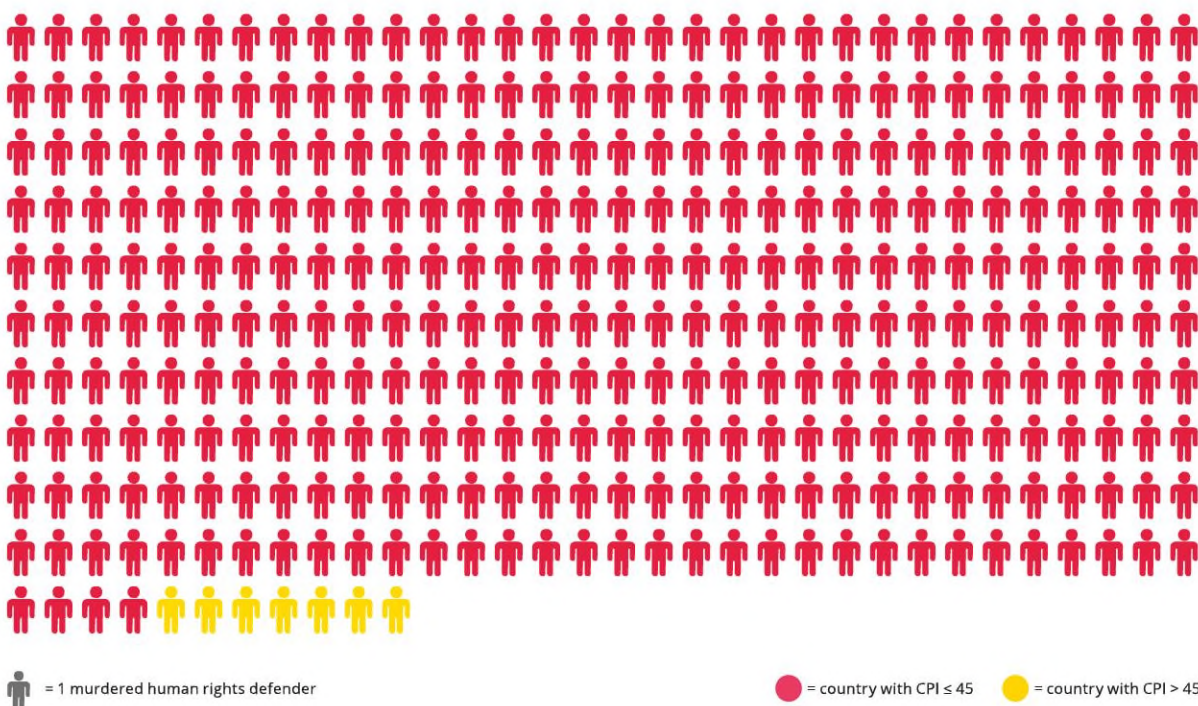
A modernised economy, efficient bureaucracy and strong rule of law all contribute to Singapore's success. However, it continues to fall far behind on human rights such as freedom of expression and association,²⁵ which means that any anti-corruption success is tied to the political will of the ruling elite and may not be sustainable.

Corruption and impunity make it unsafe for people to speak up and demand justice. Ninety-eight per cent of the 331 murders of human rights defenders in 2020 occurred in countries with high

levels of public sector corruption, as shown by a CPI score of below 45. At least 20 of these cases were human rights defenders specifically focusing on anti-corruption issues.²⁶

CORRUPTION AND MURDERS OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Highly corrupt countries account for almost all murdered human rights defenders around the world. Corruption in law enforcement and the judiciary, as well as impunity for serious crimes, contribute to a dangerous climate.²⁷



Nicaragua

Nicaragua has dropped 9 points in the index since 2012, to a low of just 20. The long-serving president, Daniel Ortega, has responded to corruption allegations with a crackdown on media, civic space and oversight institutions. Nicaragua's scores on the Freedom of Expression, Freedom of Association and Access to Justice indices have now dropped to record lows.²⁸

Philippines

With a score of 33, the Philippines is a significant decliner, having lost 5 points since 2014. Since the election of Rodrigo Duterte, the Philippines has also seen a sharp decline in freedom of association and freedom of expression, making it harder to speak up about corruption.²⁹ In 2020, it was the country with the second highest number of murdered human rights defenders, with a total of 25 deaths.³⁰

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan has remained in the bottom third of the CPI since 2012, its score oscillating between 25 and 30. In 2017, the Azerbaijani Laundromat investigation³¹ revealed how a vast slush fund financed the regime's reputation laundering by making payments – mostly through Danske Bank – to politicians across Europe, while jailing outspoken opposition and media figures at home.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

While corruption takes vastly different forms from country to country, this year's scores reveal that all parts of the globe are at a standstill when it comes to fighting public sector corruption.

At the top of the CPI, countries in Western Europe and the European Union (EU) continue to wrestle with transparency and accountability in their response to COVID-19, threatening the region's clean image.

In parts of Asia Pacific, the Americas, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, increasing restrictions on accountability

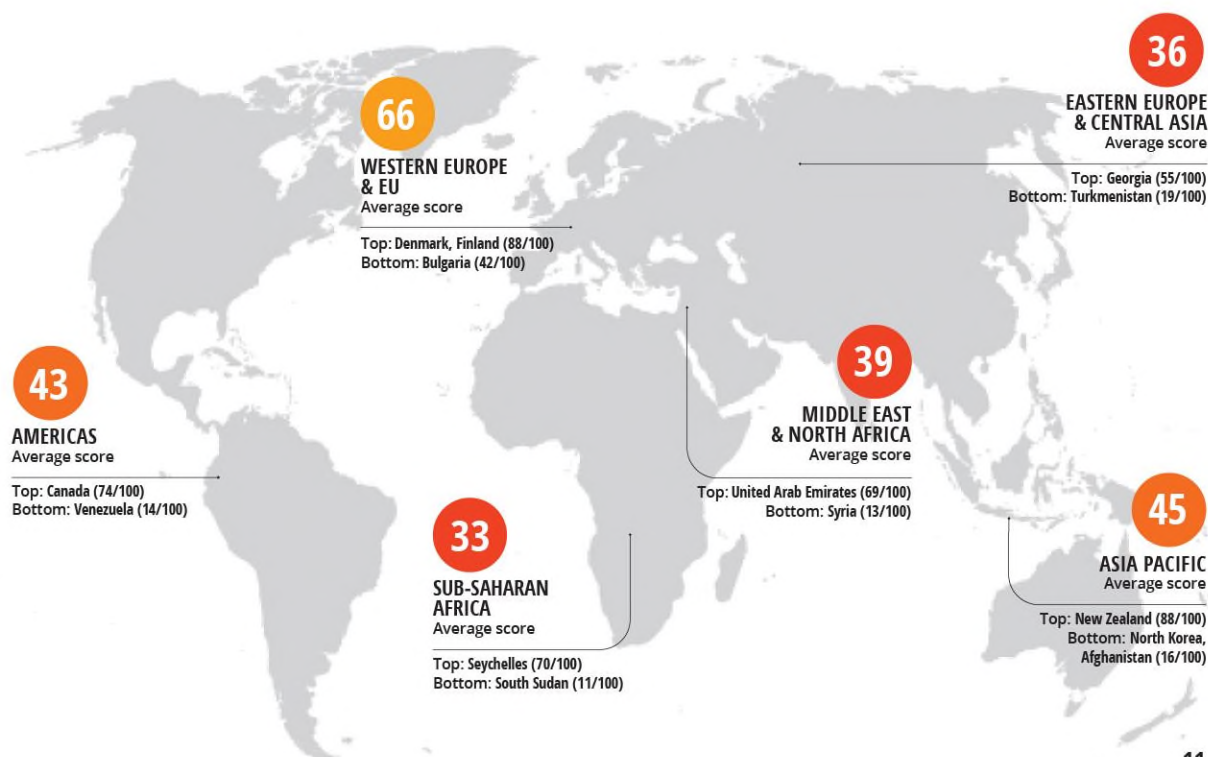
measures and basic civil freedoms allow corruption to go unchecked, and even historically high-performing countries are showing signs of decline.

In the Middle East and North Africa, the interests of a powerful few continue to dominate the political and private sphere, and the limitations placed on civil and political freedoms are blocking

any significant progress. In Sub-Saharan Africa, armed conflict, violent transitions of power and increasing terrorist threats combined with poor enforcement of anti-corruption commitments rob citizens of their basic rights and services.

RESULTS BY REGION

Average regional scores, with top and bottom performers in each region.

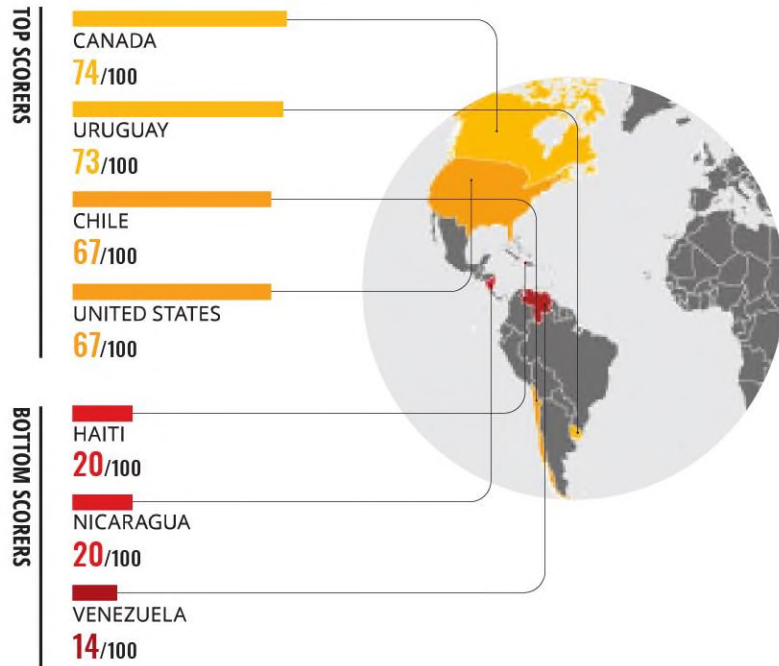


AMERICAS

With no progress on an average score of 43 out of 100 for the third consecutive year, even high performers in the Americas are showing signs of trouble. While the worst scores in the region belong to non-democratic countries – many of which are facing humanitarian crises – major consolidated democracies have also remained stagnant or fallen down the CPI.

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COUNTRIES ASSESSED

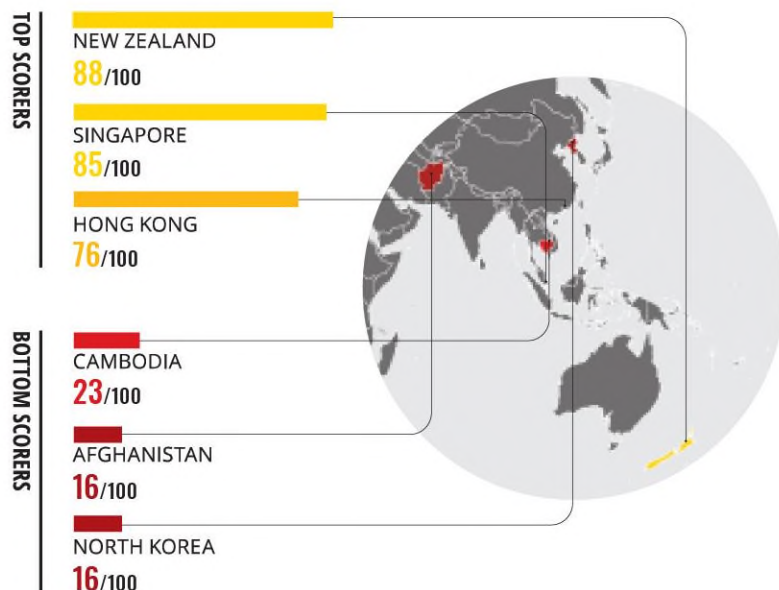


ASIA PACIFIC

While the Asia Pacific region has made great strides in controlling petty corruption over the last decade, a failure to address grand corruption has kept the average score stalled at 45 out of 100 for the third year running. Some higher-scoring countries have dropped down the index, amid the erosion of the very freedoms that once facilitated successful mass movements against corruption in the region.

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COUNTRIES ASSESSED



EASTERN EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

With an average score of just 36 out of 100, Eastern Europe and Central Asia is still the second lowest performing region on the CPI. In Central Asia, governments have used COVID-19 as an excuse to introduce restrictions on rights and accountability, while populist governments in Eastern Europe have severely cracked down on the freedoms of expression and assembly needed to call out corruption.

19

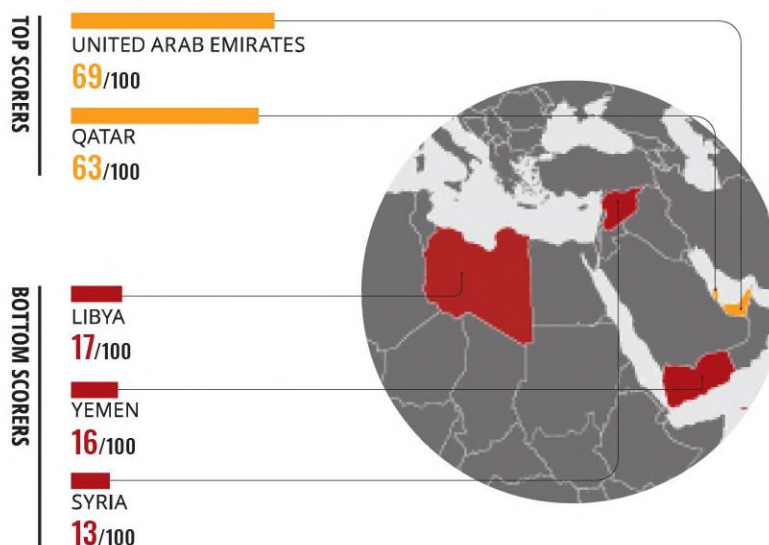
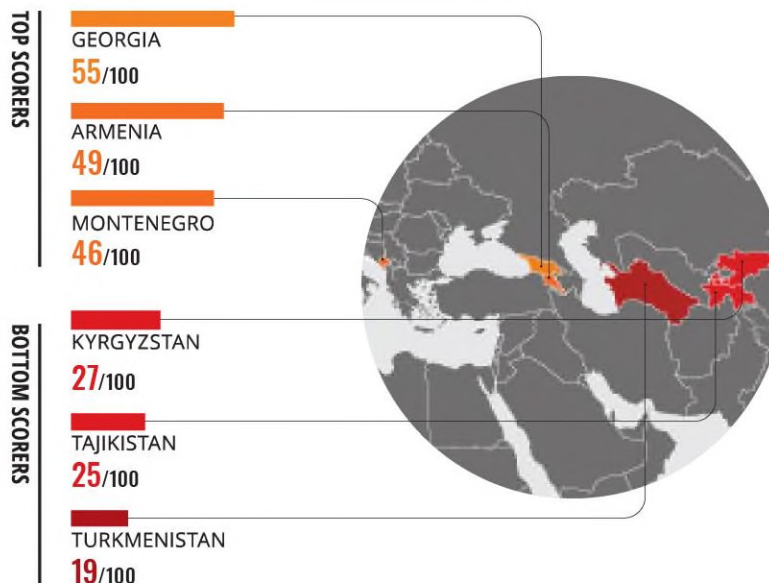
COUNTRIES ASSESSED

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

With an average score of 39 out of 100 for the fourth consecutive year, the Middle East and North Africa region is struggling to achieve tangible results in the fight against corruption. Systemic political misconduct and private interests overtaking the common good have allowed the region – already devastated by various conflicts – to be ravaged by corruption and human rights abuses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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COUNTRIES ASSESSED



SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

With an average score of 33 out of 100, Sub-Saharan Africa shows no significant improvement from previous years. The gains made by top scorers are overshadowed by the region's poor performance overall – 44 out of 49 countries still score below 50. This reinforces the urgent need for African governments to implement existing anti-corruption commitments if they are to alleviate the devastating effect of corruption on millions of citizens living in extreme poverty.

49

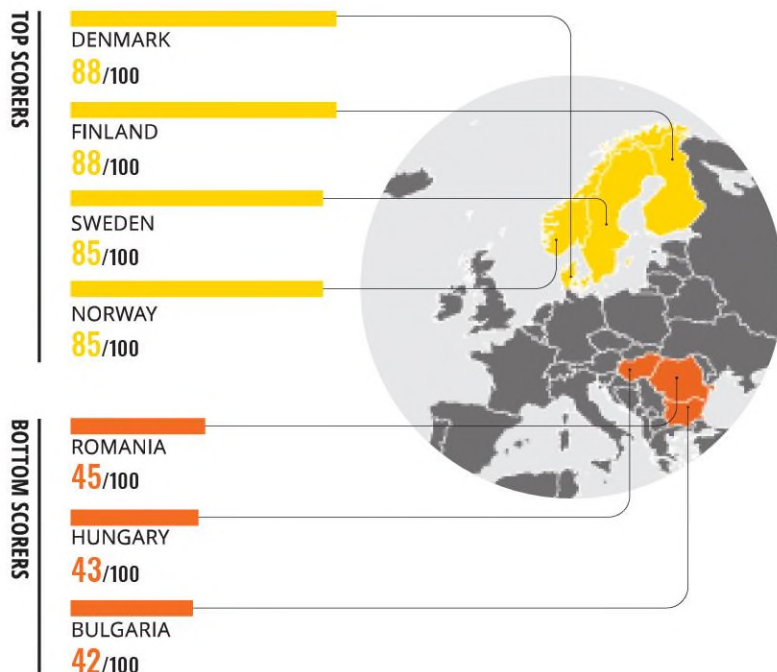
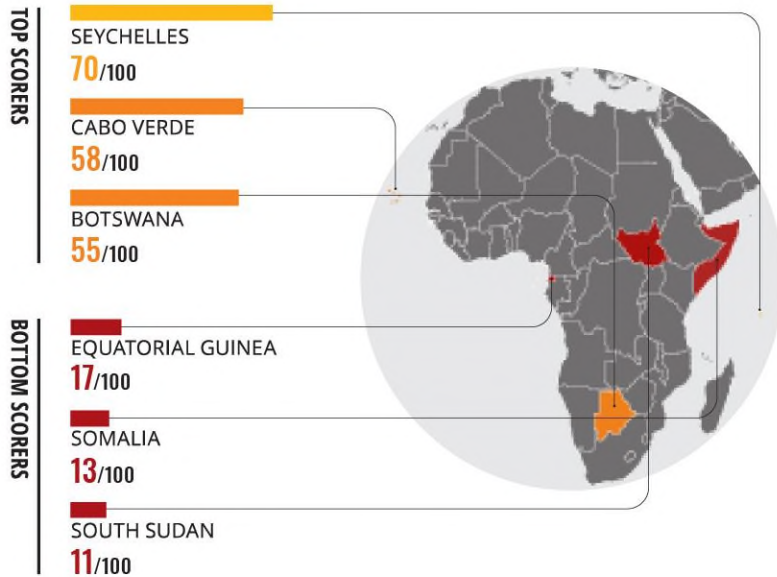
COUNTRIES ASSESSED

WESTERN EUROPE AND EUROPEAN UNION

With an average score of 66 out of 100, Western Europe and the EU still tops the CPI, but progress in recent years has flatlined. The COVID-19 pandemic has threatened transparency and accountability across the region, leaving no country unscathed and exposing worrying signs of backsliding among even the region's best performers.

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COUNTRIES ASSESSED



METHODOLOGY

The CPI aggregates data from a number of different sources that provide perceptions among business people and country experts of the level of corruption in the public sector. The following steps are taken to calculate the CPI:

1. Select data sources. Each data source used to construct the CPI must fulfil the following criteria to qualify as a valid source:

- + Quantifies risks or perceptions of corruption in the public sector
- + Is based on a reliable and valid methodology
- + Comes from a reputable organisation
- + Allows for sufficient variation of scores to distinguish between countries
- + Ranks a substantial number of countries

- + Considers only the assessments of country experts or business people
- + Is regularly updated.

The CPI 2021 is calculated using 13 different data sources from 12 different institutions that capture perceptions of corruption within the past two years.

2. Standardise data sources to a scale of 0-100. This standardisation is done by subtracting the mean of each source in the baseline year from each country score, then dividing by the standard deviation of that source in the baseline year. This subtraction and division using the baseline year parameters ensures that the CPI scores are comparable year on year since 2012. After this procedure, the standardised scores are transformed to the CPI scale by multiplying them with the value of the CPI standard deviation in 2012 (20) and adding the mean of the CPI in 2012 (45), so that the dataset fits the CPI's 0-100 scale.

3. Calculate the average. For a country or territory to be included in the CPI, a minimum of three sources must assess that country. A country's CPI score is then calculated as the average of all standardised scores available for that country. Scores are rounded to whole numbers.

4. Report the measure of uncertainty. The CPI score is accompanied by a standard error and confidence interval. This captures the variation across the data sources available for a country or territory.

ENDNOTES

1 The 2021 CPI score for each of these 27 countries was the lowest score they had achieved since the earliest comparable year of available data (2012): Australia, Belgium, Botswana, Canada, Comoros, Cyprus, Dominica, Eswatini, Honduras, Hungary, Israel, Lebanon, Lesotho, Mongolia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Venezuela.

2 Freedom House (2021). Freedom in the World 2021: Democracy under Siege. Available at: <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2021/democracy-under-siege>.

3 Transparency International and International Council on Human Rights Policy (2009). Corruption and Human Rights: Making the connection. Available at: https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1551222.

4 Lührmann, A. and Lindberg, S. I., Democratization (2019). 'A third wave of autocratization is here: what is new about it?'. Available at: www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13510347.2019.1582029.

5 Drapalova, E. (2019). 'Corruption and the crisis of democracy', Transparency International, 7 March 2019. Available at: <https://>

knowledgehub.transparency.org/helpdesk/corruption-and-the-crisis-of-democracy.

6 Lawlor, M. (2020). Final warning: death threats and killings of human rights defenders: report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders, Mary Lawlor, United Nations. Available at: <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3898237?ln=en>.

7 Reporters without Borders (2021). 'At least 22 newspapers "murdered" in the past five years'. Available at: <https://rsf.org/en/news/least-22-newspapers-murdered-past-five-years>.

8 Committee to Protect Journalists (2021). 'Pegasus Project revelations show added layer of risk for corruption reporters'. Available at: <https://cpj.org/2021/07/pegasus-project-risk-corruption-reporters>.

9 V-DEM (2021). 'Pandemic backsliding'. Available at: www.v-dem.net/pandem.html.

10 This refers to countries that registered statistically significant improvements or declines considering a 90 per cent confidence interval. While other countries may register changes of the same magnitude, their scores show substantial variation among the CPI's underlying sources.

11 Euronews (2021). 'Revolt, repression and reprisals: A look back at a year of turmoil in Belarus'. Available at: www.euronews.com/2021/08/09/revolt-repression-and-reprisals-a-look-back-at-a-year-of-turmoil-in-belarus.

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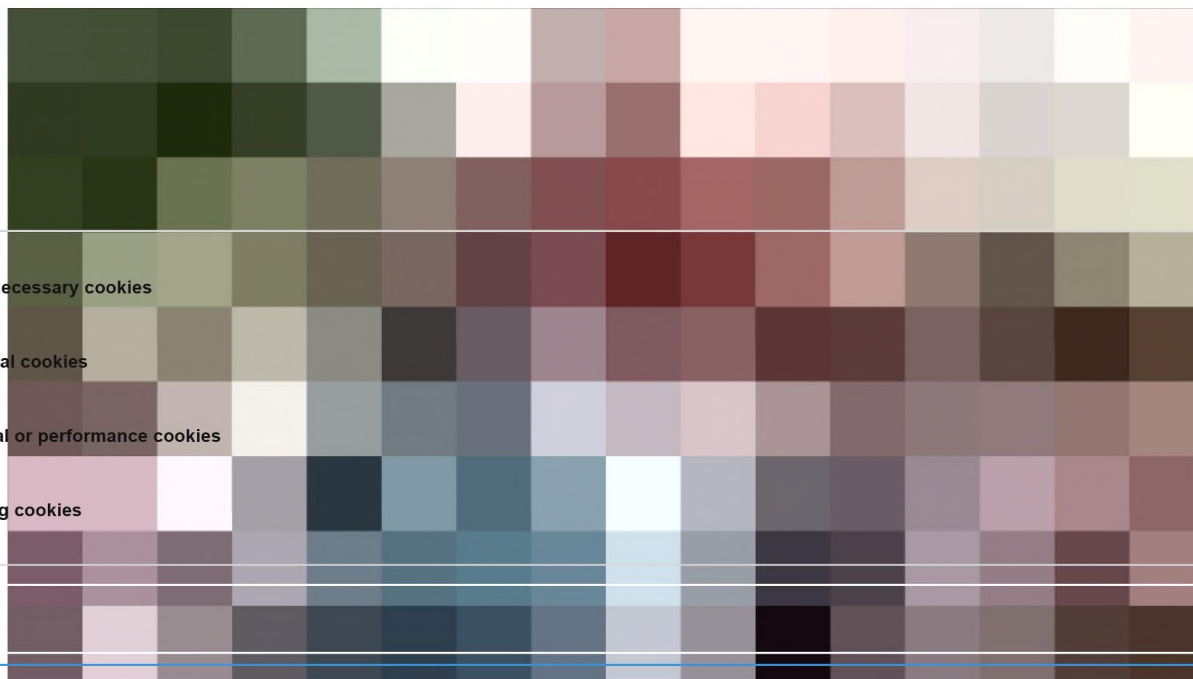
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Luanda, Angola – People protest against the increase in the cost of living and corruption, 20 March 2021. Photo: Osvaldo Silva/AFP

25 January 2022

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With an average score of 33 out of 100, Sub-Saharan Africa shows no significant improvement on the [2021 Corruption Perceptions Index \(CPI\)](#). The gains made by a ha. overall, as 44 out of 49 countries assessed on the index still score below 50.

With the COVID-19 pandemic [severely hitting](#) the previously less-affected continent, alongside protracted [armed conflicts](#) and rising [terrorist threats](#), 2021 wa that exist from long before.

To keep corruption out of the public eye, governments across the region have limited information and cracked down on independent voices calling out abuse

On a continent where corruption plunders [precious natural resources](#) and impedes access to [public services for millions of people](#), the results of a decade of

Best and worst performers

Seychelles (CPI score: 70) tops the 2021 index, while **Cabo Verde** (58) and **Botswana** (55) are the distant runners-up.

For countries at the bottom of the index, such as **Equatorial Guinea** (17), **Somalia** (13) and **South Sudan** (11), the way out of endemic corruption remains da

REGIONAL OVERVIEW



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Gains need to be sustained

The performance of **Seychelles** (70, up 18 points since 2012) has steadily risen on the CPI over the past decade. During this time, substantial open government

These gains need to be further solidified, not reversed. For example, the National Assembly of Seychelles recently voted to [remove a requirement](#) for spouse

Seychelles also needs to tackle the financial secrecy which has made it an attractive destination for dirty money from around the world.

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Angola (29, up 7 points since 2012) marks a significant improvement on the CPI following the election of President João Lourenço in 2017, who has taken steps to end the rule of his ruling family. Among them was [Isabel dos Santos](#), the former president's daughter and ex-chief of the state oil company Sonangol. Dos Santos was the subject of a 2019 survey, which found "deep-seated corruption".

However, investigations are rarely opened in other cases, raising doubts about selective justice. In a [2019 survey](#), 39 per cent of Angolans said that the president

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According to the same survey, the majority also think that those who report corruption risk retaliation. People's concerns turned out to be justified when last year's provincial elections were held in the country's provinces.





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Country to watch: Senegal

Senegal's (43) performance on the CPI has significantly improved (from 36) in the last decade, gaining 9 points from 2012 to 2016. Advancement and passage of the asset declaration law, among other reforms. But progress halted there, with Senegal's 2021 score dropping 2 points compared to 2020.

In 2020, a national anti-corruption strategy was adopted, but its prospects are unclear, as resourcing and implementation remain a challenge. In denunciations by the public about mismanagement of public funds and natural resources have not been adequately investigated. Patchy enforcement.

In 2019, [previously unknown details](#) surfaced surrounding the 2012 sale of concession rights for two offshore oil blocks, implicating President Idriss Sall [resigned from public office](#), but rejected claims that he received secret payments. Eventually, an investigation into his role was dismissed. The

In 2020, Freedom House downgraded Senegal's rating from "free" to "partly free", citing [politically motivated corruption prosecutions](#) of opposition leaders.

While media can operate with relative freedom, defamation laws constrain civil liberties. A [recent survey](#) revealed that a majority of Senegalese

Dakar, Senegal – Protests calling for an investigation erupted after the BBC Africa Eye report aired in June 2019. Photo: Sylvain Cherkaoi/REUTERS

Impunity making things worse

One of the top performers in the region, **Botswana** (55) has hit a historic low in 2021, recording a significant decline from a score of 65 in 2012. The result cor showed that most people in Botswana thought [corruption had increased](#). Concerns over impunity – such as in the case of the [alleged looting of the National f](#) for high-level corruption in the continent's oldest democracy.

Liberia (29), which dropped 12 points (from 41) since 2012, is a significant decliner on the 2021 CPI. Unresolved corruption allegations and a [persistent cultur](#) judiciary [continue to undermine the fight against corruption](#) in the West African nation.

SIGNIFICANT DECLINERS



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One of the biggest threats to progress is grand corruption – systemic corruption involving high-level public officials and vast sums of money, often accompani

All the while, the continent loses [tens of billions](#) of dollars annually in capital flight.

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Country to watch: Mozambique

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Although not statistically significant, **Mozambique** (26) has dropped 5 points (from 31) on the CPI since 2012. The country is still grappling with We use cookies to make this website function successfully. We also use cookies and automated technologies to analyse your use of this website and offer you a more personalised experience. When you click 'accept' you are accepting all of the cookies. If you want to find out more, please click on the 'About' tab.

The ensuing financial crisis has meant that the Mozambican state is unable to fulfil its obligations, including [protecting the rights of people displaced](#) in late 2021.

The scandal and its aftermath exemplify the dangers of executive overreach and a [lack of effective checks and balances](#) – weak parliamentary oversight.

Pemba, Mozambique – A woman waits for the authorities to check her belongings as she arrives at Paquique beach in Pemba after fleeing Cabo Delgado, 22 May 2021. Photo: John Wessels/AFP

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Last year, the Pandora Papers investigations exposed nearly 50 politicians and at least [five current or former heads of state](#) from the continent – some of whom

Functional cookies are moving their wealth offshore.


In **Nigeria** (24) – which hit a historic low on the 2021 CPI – [more than 100 powerful individuals](#) were exposed as having used anonymous companies to buy property. **Analytical or performance cookies** powerholders were previously reported as part of the [Panama Papers](#) and [FinCEN Files](#) investigations. Inaction over past disclosures has [created a sense of impunity](#).

Marketing cookies In late 2021, the [Congo Hold-Up investigations](#) sent shockwaves across the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (19). Individuals in former president Joseph Kabila's inner circle, including the tax authority, among others. Documents were leaked to journalists from a DRC subsidiary of **Gabon's** (31) BGFIBank Group – a private bank allegedly used by the president.

Fresh revelations by investigative journalists show a fuller picture of kleptocracy in **Equatorial Guinea** (17). Oil minister Gabriel Mbega Obiang Lima – President Obiang's son – was convicted in the case of another member of the Obiang family – the infamous Vice President Teodorin Obiang – who was [definitively convicted in France](#) and [Sherpa also upheld the decision to confiscate Obiang's assets held in France, worth approximately EUR 150 million](#).

South Africa's (44) former president Jacob Zuma is one of the few heads of state to face corruption charges in their own country. There have been positive steps as the Zondo Commission. And yet the weakened law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies that were hollowed out during years of state capture have continued to struggle.

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 Pietermaritzburg, South Africa – Former president Jacob Zuma waits in court during his corruption trial, 26 October 2021. Photo: Jerome Delay/Pool via REUTERS

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Democracy in peril, civil liberties under attack

According to [Afrobarometer's latest surveys](#), a majority of people across the region think corruption is on the rise, while simultaneously expressing dissatisfaction with the government. This is not surprising; persistent corruption has gone hand-in-hand with [unconstitutional changes of power](#) in various parts of the continent. Elsewhere, governments have used the COVID-19 pandemic – limiting people's ability to hold power to account.

On the [2020 Democracy Index](#), Sub-Saharan Africa recorded its worst average score since 2006, primarily owing to a drop in countries' civil liberties scores. Reforms to [further crack down on rights](#).

Mali's (29) significant decline (from 35 in 2015) on the CPI has occurred concurrently with a drop in its civil liberties score. The country is facing political, institutional and economic challenges that undermines key state functions, leading to a [vicious cycle of corruption and human rights abuses](#).

And while **Ethiopia** (39) registers a significant improvement (from 33) since 2012, its decline on civil liberties threatens to reverse any previous progress. The government has silenced dissenting voices. In 2021, authorities [shut down a popular independent media outlet](#) and [arrested dozens of journalists](#) for their coverage of the civil war.

How to break the cycle

The 2021 CPI results should serve as a wake-up call to societies across Sub-Saharan Africa. The magnitude of corruption challenges requires responses much more robust than the current situation.

Sustainable progress on anti-corruption can only be achieved if societal and institutional checks on power are ensured. Governments must urgently roll back conflicts as an excuse for stifling dissent.

And when allegations of abuse emerge, anti-corruption agencies and justice institutions must provide accountability – no matter how high-level the culprit.

HOW CAN TOP-SCORING COUNTRIES SUPPORT ANTI-CORRUPTION EFFORTS

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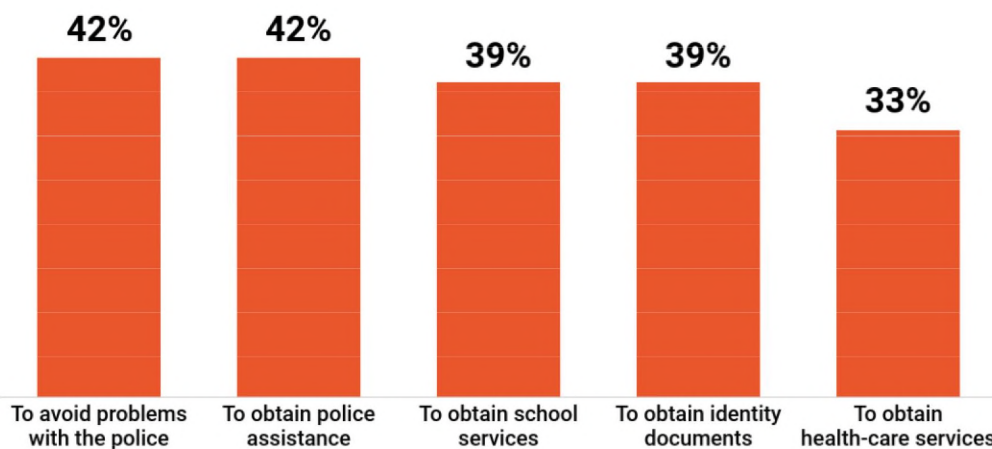
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AD396: Despite gains, Angolans dissatisfied with government anti-corruption efforts

Paid a bribe to obtain public services | Angola | 2019



Respondents who had contact with key public services during the previous year were asked:
And how often, if ever, did you have to pay a bribe, give a gift, or do a favor [to obtain the needed services]?

In just one year, Angola improved from 167th to 146th on Transparency International's (2020) Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), largely on the strength of anti-corruption reforms introduced after President João Lourenço took office in 2017 (Jornal de Angola, 2020; O Observador, 2020a).

While the country's CPI score still trailed the sub-Saharan African and global averages, corruption investigations pressed ahead, and courts froze the assets of Isabel dos Santos and Irene Neto (daughters of former presidents José Eduardo dos Santos and António Agostinho Neto). Yet João Lourenço and his attorney general, who have denounced corruption and appealed to citizens to join a national crusade against it, have remained silent in the face of recent news reports accusing the president's cabinet director of graft (Voz da América, 2019; Público, 2020; O Observador, 2020b; TVI24, 2020).

How do citizens perceive anti-corruption efforts in Angola?

Findings from the first Afrobarometer survey in Angola show that a substantial proportion see corruption declining, but even more rate the government's anti-corruption performance as poor. In part, this may be because a plurality say the president is using the anti-corruption fight as a political weapon. In addition, a majority fear retaliation or other negative consequences if they get involved by reporting corruption to the authorities.

Despite these reservations, a majority of Angolans are opposed to a blanket pardon for pre- 2017 corruption and want the government to recover ill-gotten gains.

[Portuguese version \(https://afrobarameter.org/publications/ad396-apesar-dos-ganhos-os-angolanos-mostram-se-insatisfeitos-com-os-esforcos-do\)](https://afrobarameter.org/publications/ad396-apesar-dos-ganhos-os-angolanos-mostram-se-insatisfeitos-com-os-esforcos-do)

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HARASSMENT AND PERSECUTION OF JOURNALIST AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER COQUE MUKUTA

[← About Coque Mukuta](#)

</en/profile/coque-mukuta>

Status: Charged

About the situation

On 17 June 2021, human rights defender and journalist Coque Mukuta was interrogated by the National Department of Investigation and Penal Procedure (DNIAP) of the Attorney General's Office of Angola, and was charged with abusing "press freedom" under Chapter IV Article 74 of the Angolan Press Law.

About the HRD



Coque Mukuta is a correspondent journalist for the Voz da América newspaper in Luanda. The human rights defender previously worked for Radio Despertar, covering anti-government demonstrations in the past in Angola. He was the co-author of the book Os Meandros das Manifestações em Angola – Volume I (The Meandros of Demonstration in Angola – Book I), which focused on the anti-government demonstrations reported to

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712 Defenders at Risk Active Cases



violently disrupted the demonstrations and harassed those taking part in them. He has been the subject of several threats and intimidation, including break-ins at his home and has received threatening letters.

[MEET COQUE MUKUTA](#)



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23 June 2021 : Harassment and persecution of journalist and human rights defender Coque Mukuta

23 June 2021

Harassment and persecution of journalist and human rights defender Coque Mukuta

On 17 June 2021, human rights defender and journalist Coque Mukuta was interrogated by the National Department of Investigation and Penal Procedure (DNIAP) of the Attorney General's Office of Angola, and was charged with abusing "press freedom" under Chapter IV Article 74 of the Angolan Press Law.

Download the urgent appeal.

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Coque Mukuta is a correspondent journalist for the Voz da América newspaper in Luanda. The human rights defender previously worked for Radio Despertar, covering anti-government demonstrations in the past in Angola. He was the co-author of the book *Os Meandros das Manifestações em Angola – I Volume* (The Troubled Ways of Demonstration in Angola – Book I), which focused on the anti-government demonstrations organised in Angola in 2011 and early 2012 and how security forces violently disrupted the demonstrations and harassed those taking part in them. He has been the subject of several threats and intimidation, including break-ins at his home and has received threatening letters.

On 17 June 2021, Coque Mukuta was questioned by the National Department of Investigation and Penal Procedure (DNIAP) of the Attorney General's Office of Angola. The human rights defender was charged with abusing "press freedom" under Article 74 of the Angolan press laws, due to an [article \(http://odecreto.com/2020/08/03/silencio-de-joao-lourenco-apadria-corrupcao-no-cuanza-norte/\)](http://odecreto.com/2020/08/03/silencio-de-joao-lourenco-apadria-corrupcao-no-cuanza-norte/) he wrote in August 2020, in which he criticises the Angolan government for turning a blind eye to corruption. The Attorney General's Office has ordered that the human rights defender is prohibited from leaving the country and must seek permission from the government if he needs to leave his residence for more than 5 days.

The questioning took place two days after Coque Mukuta had peacefully protested in front of the Attorney General's Office in Luanda on 15 June 2021, to contest the political persecution of media professionals. In his

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Violations [#Judicial Harassment \(/en/violation/judicial-harassment/\)](/en/violation/judicial-harassment/) [#Questioning / Interrogation \(/en/violation/questioning-interrogation/\)](/en/violation/questioning-interrogation/) [712 Defenders at Risk Active Cases](#)



company were three other journalists and human rights defenders, Jorge Neto from Jornal Manchete, Lucas Pedro from Club-k and Escrivão José from Hora H. Coque Mukuta has reported that he and other human rights defenders have previously received [threats and reprisals \(/en/node/150\)](/en/node/150) due to their legitimate work in defence of the freedom of expression and human rights.

This is not an isolated episode. At present, seven journalists and human rights defenders are being investigated by the Angolan Attorney General's Office for crimes related to slander and defamation. Journalists and human rights defenders report that as the elections in August 2022 are approaching, the persecution of human rights defenders who stand up for freedom of expression has intensified as a way to intimidate those who criticize repressive measures taken by the authorities and create an atmosphere of fear among the population.

The Government of the Republic of Angola has repeatedly failed to fulfil its obligations to uphold the right to freedom of expression, as human rights defenders have been consistently targeted by Angolan authorities, for their legitimate work in exposing human rights violations in Angola. Front Line Defenders is seriously concerned regarding the judicial prosecution and preventive measures against Coque Mukuta and believes that he is being targeted solely as a result of his work in promoting human rights.

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